

CLAIM STATUS

1. (Currently amended) A pre-expanded tampon pledget comprising a cellulosic fiber, wherein the tampon pledget has a density about 0.01 grams per cubic centimeter (g/cc) to about 0.39 g/cc and an absorbency about 6 grams to about 18 grams,

wherein said absorbency is achieved by said cellulosic fiber without the use of a transfer layer.

2. (Original) The pre-expanded pledget of claim 1, wherein said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

✓ 3. (Canceled).

4. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein the tampon pledget has a volume about 8 cc to about 52 cc.

5. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledget in an amount about 1.3 grams to about 4.5 grams.

6. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein the tampon pledget has a diameter in an initial condition about 0.5 inches to about 1.75 inches.

7. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein the tampon pledget has a cross-pad construction.

8. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein the tampon pledget has a radial construction.

9. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 1, wherein the tampon pledget has a flat pad construction.

10. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 1, further comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon pledget.

11. (Withdrawn) A pre-expanded tampon pledget having a density about 0.01 g/cc to about 0.31 g/cc and an absorbency about 6 grams to about 9 grams.

12. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 11, wherein said density is about 0.15 g/cc to about 0.29 g/cc.

al 13. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded pledget of claim 11, wherein the tampon pledget comprises a cellulosic fiber.

14. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 13, wherein said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

15. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 11, wherein said absorbency is achieved without the use of a transfer layer.

16. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 11, wherein the tampon pledget has a volume about 7 cc to about 12 cc.

17. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 13, wherein said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledget in an amount about 1.6 grams to about 2.4 grams.

18. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 11, wherein the tampon pledget has a diameter in an initial condition about 0.5 inches to about 0.8 inches.

19. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 11, wherein the tampon pledget has a cross-pad construction.

20. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 11, wherein the tampon pledget has a radial construction.

21. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 11, wherein the tampon pledget has a flat pad construction.

22. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 11, further comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon pledget.

23. (Currently amended) A pre-expanded tampon pledget comprising a cellulosic fiber, wherein the tampon pledget has ~~having~~ a density about 0.01 g/cc to about 0.32 g/cc and an absorbency about 9 grams to about 12 grams,

wherein said absorbency is achieved by said cellulosic fiber without the use of a transfer layer.

24. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23, wherein said density is about 0.15 g/cc to about 0.30 g/cc.

✓25. (Canceled).

26. (Currently amended) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23 25, wherein said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

27. (Canceled).

28. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23, wherein the tampon pledget has a volume about 9 cc to about 14 cc.

29. (Currently amended) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23 25, wherein said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledget in an amount about 2.25 grams to about 2.75 grams.

30. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23, wherein the tampon pledget has a diameter in an initial condition about 0.65 inches to about 0.8 inches.

31. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23, wherein the tampon pledget has a cross-pad construction.

32. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23, wherein the tampon pledget has a radial construction.

33. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23, wherein the tampon pledget has a flat pad construction.

34. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 23, further comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon pledget.

35. (Currently amended) A pre-expanded tampon pledget having a density about ~~0.01 g/cc to about 0.05 g/cc~~ about 0.02 g/cc to about 0.035 g/cc and an absorbency about 9 grams to about 12 grams.

36. (Canceled).

37. (Original) The pre-expanded pledget of claim 35, wherein the tampon pledget comprises a cellulosic fiber.

38. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 37, wherein said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

39. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 35, wherein said absorbency is achieved without the use of a transfer layer.

40. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 35, wherein the tampon pledget has a volume about 40 cc to about 60 cc.

a 41. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 37, wherein said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledget in an amount about 1.1 grams to about 1.7 grams.

42. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 35, wherein the tampon pledget has a diameter in an initial condition about 1.25 inches to about 1.75 inches.

43. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 35, wherein the tampon pledget has a cross-pad construction.

44. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 35, wherein the tampon pledget has a radial construction.

45. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 35, wherein the tampon pledget has a flat pad construction.

46. (Original) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 35, further comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon pledget.

47. (Withdrawn) A pre-expanded tampon pledget having a density about 0.01 g/cc to about 0.35 g/cc and an absorbency about 12 grams to about 15 grams.

48. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 47, wherein said density is about 0.20 g/cc to about 0.33 g/cc.

49. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded pledget of claim 47, wherein the tampon pledget comprises a cellulosic fiber.

50. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 49, wherein said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

51. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 47, wherein said absorbency is achieved without the use of a transfer layer.

52. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 47, wherein the tampon pledget has a volume about 10 cc to about 15 cc.

53. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 49, wherein said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledget in an amount about 3 grams to about 3.5 grams.

54. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 47, wherein the tampon pledget has a diameter in an initial condition about 0.65 inches to about 0.8 inches.

55. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 47, wherein the tampon pledget has a cross-pad construction.

56. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 47, wherein the tampon pledget has a radial construction.

57. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 47, wherein the tampon pledget has a flat pad construction.

58. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 47, further comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon pledget.

a 59. (Withdrawn) A pre-expanded tampon pledget having a density about 0.01 g/cc to about 0.39 g/cc and an absorbency about 15 grams to about 18 grams.

60. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 59, wherein said density is about 0.25 g/cc to about 0.35 g/cc.

61. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded pledget of claim 59, wherein the tampon pledget comprises a cellulosic fiber.

62. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 61, wherein said cellulosic fiber is selected from the group consisting of rayon, cotton, pulp, and any combinations thereof.

63. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 59, wherein said absorbency is achieved without the use of a transfer layer.

64. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 59, wherein the tampon pledget has a volume about 10 cc to about 15 cc.

65. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 61, wherein said cellulosic fiber is present in the tampon pledget in an amount about 3.5 grams to about 4.5 grams.

66. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 59, wherein the tampon pledget has a diameter in an initial condition about 0.65 inches to about 0.8 inches.

67. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 59, wherein the tampon pledget has a cross-pad construction.

68. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 59, wherein the tampon pledget has a radial construction.

69. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 59, wherein the tampon pledget has a flat pad construction.

70. (Withdrawn) The pre-expanded tampon pledget of claim 59, further comprising a coverstock about at least a portion of the tampon pledget.